

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 15358 161839Z
ACTION EUR-12

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AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
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AMCONSUL MUNICH
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, GW
SUBJECT: LABOR REACTION TO TERRORISM AND THE SCHLEYER
CASE

REF: (A) BONN 15026; (B) BONN 15237

SUMMARY: FRG UNION LEADERSHIP HAS STRONGLY CONDEMNED
THE SCHLEYER KIDNAPPING AND DISASSOCIATED THE UNION
MOVEMENT FROM THE GOALS OF THE "MIDDLE CLASS" TERRO-
RISTS. DELEGATES TO THIS FALL'S FIRST MAJOR UNION
CONVENTION WIDELY APPLAUDED DEMANDS MADE BY SPEAKERS
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FOR STRONG MEASURES AGAINST TERRORISM IN THE FRG.
HEINZ OSKAR VETTER, GERMAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION (DGB)
PRESIDENT, MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE UNION MOVEMENT'S
SYMPATHY FOR SCHLEYER'S PLIGHT WOULD NOT AFFECT UNION
DEMANDS ON THE EMPLOYERS AND THE GOVERNMENT. END
SUMMARY.

1. THE ELEVENTH CONVENTION OF THE UNION FOR GARDEN, FARM AND FOREST WORKERS (GEWERKSCHAFT GARTENBAU, LAND- UND FORSTWIRTSCHAFT - GGLF) TOOK PLACE IN MALENTE SEPTEMBER 11-14 (SEPTTEL). THIS WAS THE FIRST CONFERENCE BY A DGB ASSOCIATE UNION AFTER THE SCHLEYER KIDNAPPING. SPEAKERS FROM THE LEADING PARTIES AND HEINZ OSKAR VETTER, CHIEF OF THE DGB ALL NOTED HOW THE SCHLEYER KIDNAPPING AND THE MURDERS OF HIS ESCORTS AND DRIVER OVERSHADOWED THE CONFERENCE. THE SPD SPEAKER (KLAUS MATTHIESEN, OPPOSITION LEADER IN THE SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN PARLIAMENT) SUPPORTED THE GOVERNMENT WHILE THE FDP AND CDU SPEAKERS MADE CAUTIOUS SPEECHES THAT DID NOT CRITICIZE THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE SCHLEYER AFFAIR.

2. SPARKS FLEW WHEN CONSTANTIN FREIHERR HEEREMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE DEUTSCHER BAUERNVERBAND (GERMAN FARMERS ASSOCIATION) CRITICIZED MATTHIESEN'S STATEMENTS ON THE MIDDLE CLASS ORIGINS OF THE TERRORISTS AND TRIED TO BLAME RADICAL LEFTIST TEACHERS AND THE TEACHERS UNION IN THE FRG FOR THE ORIGIN OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENCE. HE WAS BOOED BY THE DELEGATES ON THIS POINT.

3. LABOR MINISTER EHRENBERG GAVE A BLAND SPEECH THAT WAS POLITELY RECEIVED.
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4. HEINZ OSKAR VETTER GAVE A HARD HITTING SPEECH CONDEMNING THE TERRORISTS AND DISOCIATING THE UNION MOVEMENT FROM THE TERRORISTS AND THEIR SYMPATHIZERS. VETTER EXPRESSED SYMPATHY FOR SCHLEYER'S PLIGHT BUT MADE IT CLEAR THAT SCHLEYER'S POSITION AS HEAD OF THE GERMAN EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION WOULD NOT AFFECT UNION DEMANDS FOR ACTION BY THE EMPLOYERS AND GOVERNMENT ON UNEMPLOYMENT AND CODETERMINATION.

5. COMMENT: THE GGLF HAS BEEN A TRADITIONALLY CONSERVATIVE UNION, BUT THEY REFLECT WHAT WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE THE UNION LINE IN THE SCHLEYER AFFAIR. THE ONLY NOTE IN DISPUTE COULD BE THE HEAVY EMPHASIS ON THE CLASS QUESTION, I.E., THE "MIDDLE CLASS RADICALS". THE UNION LEADERSHIP CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTROL ANY EXCESSES IN THIS AREA, BUT WILL ALLOW A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PLAY TO THIS THEME IN ORDER TO AVOID CLAIMS THAT THE TERRORISTS ORIGINATE ONLY FROM THE LEFT WING.
MEEHAN.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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